

## Farm Labor

### Lake Region

There were 73,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of October 11-17, 2015, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.28 per hour, up \$1.04 from October 2014. The number of hours worked averaged 41.5 for hired workers during the reference week, up 3.0 hours from October 2014.

During the reference week of July 12-18, 2015, there were 80,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.56 per hour during the July 2015 reference week, up \$0.69 from July 2014. The number of hours worked averaged 38.3 for hired workers during the reference week, down slightly when compared to 38.4 hours in July 2014.

### United States

Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 841,000 for the reference week of October 11-17, 2015, up 8 percent from the October 2014 reference week. There were 872,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2015, up 4 percent from the July 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.82 per hour during the October 2015 reference week, up 6 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$12.11 per hour, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$12.02, up 6 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.09 per hour, was up 5 percent from October 2014. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.7 hours during the October 2015 reference week, compared with 41.3 hours a year earlier.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.47 per hour during the July 2015 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.73 per hour, up 3 percent. Livestock workers earned \$11.80 per hour, up 5 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.75 per hour, was up 4 percent from July 2014.

## November 23, 2015 - Vol. 15, No. 21

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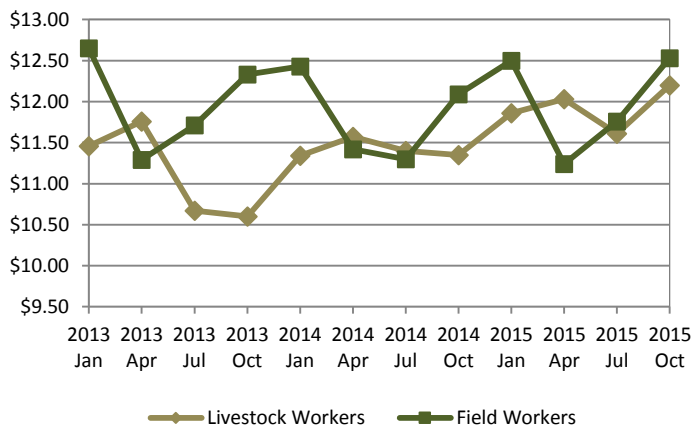
*This Farm Reporter contains the results from the following surveys. Thanks for your help!*

Milk Production Report  
Labor Survey  
Ag Yield Survey  
Corn and Potato Objective Yield Surveys  
Monthly Dairy Products

Hired laborers worked an average of 41.0 hours during the July 2015 reference week, compared with 40.5 hours a year earlier.

The 2015 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$12.54 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average wage. The 2015 U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$11.72 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average. The 2015 U.S. annual average combined wage for field and livestock workers was \$11.74, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average of \$11.29 per hour.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Lake Region



Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Lake Region<sup>1</sup> and United States: 2014-2015

	Lake Region			United States		
	October 2014	July 2015	October 2015	October 2014	July 2015	October 2015
Hired Workers on Farms..... 1,000 workers	63	80	73	782	872	841
Hours worked by Hired Workers..... hrs/wk	38.5	38.3	41.5	41.3	41.0	41.7
Wage Rate by Work Type <sup>2</sup>						
Field..... \$/hr	12.09	11.76	12.53	11.52	11.73	12.11
Livestock..... \$/hr	11.35	11.61	12.20	11.29	11.80	12.02
Field & Livestock..... \$/hr	11.75	11.70	12.40	11.46	11.75	12.09
All Hired Workers..... \$/hr	12.24	12.56	13.28	12.12	12.47	12.82

1. Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. 2. Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

## Crop Production

Wisconsin **corn** production is forecast at 505 million bushels, 4 percent above the 2014 production and 1 percent above the October forecast. If realized, this will be the second largest corn crop on record. Based on conditions as of November 1, the State average yield is forecast at 165 bushels per acre, an increase of 9 bushels per acre from last year and 1 bushel above the October forecast. If realized, the yield will be the highest on record, 3 bushels above the previous record set in 2010. Area harvested for grain remain unchanged from October, at 3.06 million acres.

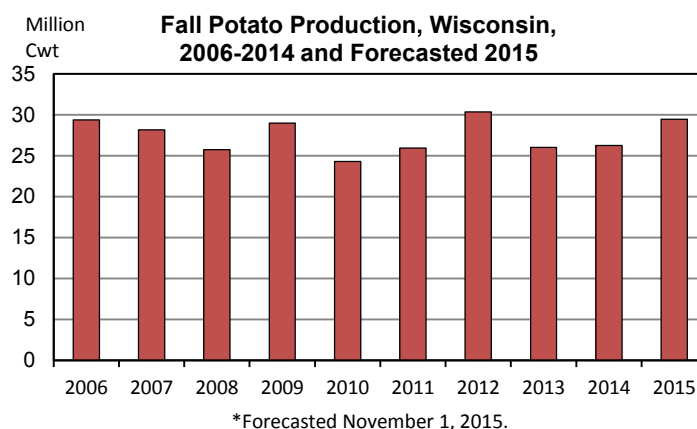
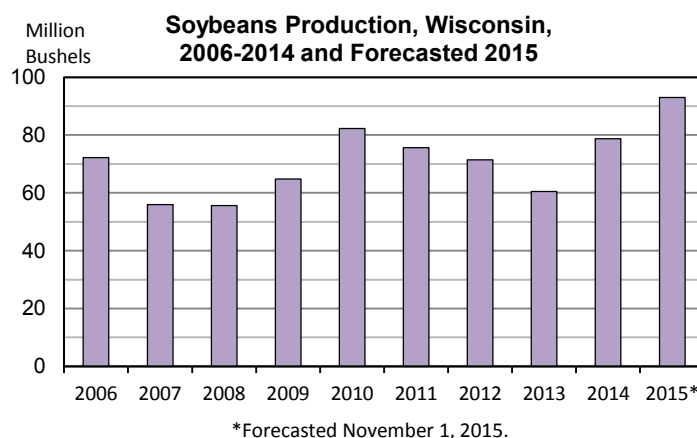
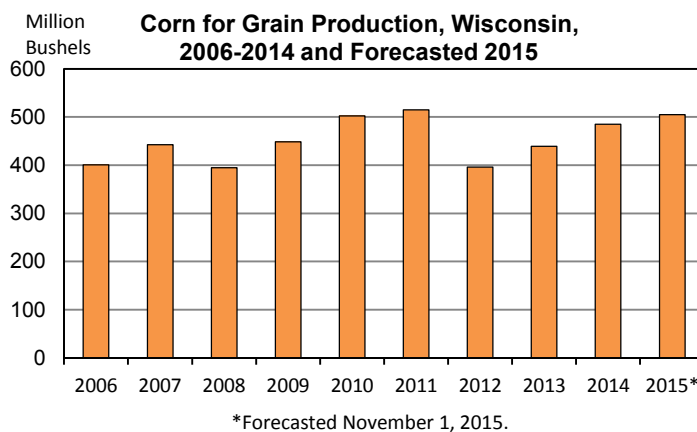
**Soybean** production is forecast at 93.0 million bushels, 18 percent above last year and 4 percent above the October forecast. If realized, this will be the highest soybean production on record, 13 percent above the previous high set in 2010. The November 1 forecast yield is 50 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above 2014 and 2 bushels above the October forecast. If realized, the yield will be the second highest on record, trailing only the 50.5 bushel per acre record set in 2010. Area harvested remains unchanged from October, at 1.86 million acres.

Wisconsin **fall potato** production is forecast at 29.4 million hundredweight (cwt), up 12 percent from 2014. The potato yield is forecast at 460 cwt per acre, up 50 cwt from 2014. Wisconsin potato growers expect to harvest 64,000 acres.

United States **corn** production is forecast at 13.7 billion bushels, up less than one percent from the October forecast, but down 4 percent from last year's record production. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 169.3 bushels per acre, up 1.3 bushels from the October forecast but 1.7 bushels below the 2014 average. If realized, this will be the second highest yield and third largest production on record for the United States. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 80.7 million acres, unchanged from the October forecast but down 3 percent from 2014.

U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at a record 3.98 billion bushels, up 2 percent from October and up 1 percent from last year. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 48.3 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from last month and up 0.8 bushel from last year. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 82.4 million acres, unchanged from last month.

All crop forecasts in this report are based on November 1 conditions and do not reflect weather effects since that time. The next crop production estimates will be published in the *Crop Production – 2015 Summary* report which will be released on January 12, 2016.



### Area Harvested, Yield, and Production Summary – Wisconsin and United States: 2014 and Forecasted November 1, 2015

State	Area harvested		Yield per acre		Production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)			(1,000)	(1,000)
<b>WISCONSIN</b>						
Corn (bu)	3,110	3,060	156.0	165.0	485,160	504,900
Potatoes (cwt)	64.0	64.0	410	460	26,240	29,440
Soybeans (bu)	1,790	1,860	44.0	50.0	78,760	93,000
<b>UNITED STATES</b>						
Corn (bu)	83,136	80,664	171.0	169.3	14,215,532	13,653,507
Potatoes (cwt)	1,051.1	1,063.1	421	419	442,170	445,602
Soybeans (bu)	82,591	82,429	47.5	48.3	3,927,090	3,981,337

## U.S. Corn Supply and Use

CORN	2013-2014	2014-2015 (Est.)	2015-2016 <sup>1</sup> Projections November
	<i>Million bushels</i>		
Beginning Stocks	821	1,232	1,731
Production	13,829	14,216	13,654
Imports	36	32	30
<b>Supply, total</b>	<b>14,686</b>	<b>15,479</b>	<b>15,415</b>
Feed & Residual	5,040	5,315	5,300
Food, Seed & Industrial	6,493	6,568	6,555
<b>Domestic, total</b>	<b>11,534</b>	<b>11,883</b>	<b>11,855</b>
Exports	1,920	1,864	1,800
<b>Use, total</b>	<b>13,454</b>	<b>13,748</b>	<b>13,655</b>
<b>Ending Stocks, total</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>1,760</b>
Avg. farm price (\$/bu)	4.46	3.70	3.35 – 3.95

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary

## 2015 Corn for Grain Objective Yield Data

The National Agricultural Statistics Service is conducting objective yield surveys in 10 corn-producing States during 2015. Randomly selected plots in corn for grain fields are visited monthly from August through harvest to obtain specific counts and measurements. Data in these tables are rounded actual field counts from this survey.

## Corn for Grain: Plant Population per Acre, as of November 1, Selected States, 2011-2015

State	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	<i>Number of Plants</i>				
IA	30,750	30,100	30,000	30,800	31,450
MN	30,250	30,000	30,950	31,150	30,750
<b>WI</b>	<b>28,950</b>	<b>28,600</b>	<b>29,150</b>	<b>30,050</b>	<b>29,450</b>

## Corn for Grain Percentage Distribution by Plant Population Per Acre, Wisconsin, 2011-2015

Year	Less than 20,000	20,000 - 22,500	22,501 - 25,000	25,001 - 27,500	27,501 - 30,000	More than 30,000
	<i>Percent</i>					
2011	2.9	5.8	6.8	12.6	24.3	47.6
2012	4.4	6.6	7.7	15.4	25.3	40.6
2013	3.4	3.4	8.0	17.2	14.9	53.1
2014	2.1	4.2	4.2	9.4	27.1	53.0
<b>2015</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>50.1</b>

## Corn for Grain: Percentage Distribution by Measured Row Width and Average Row Width, as of November 1, 2015, Selected States

State	No. of Samples	Row Width (inches)						Average Row Width
		20.5 or Less	20.6 – 30.5	30.6 – 34.5	34.6 – 36.5	36.6 – 38.5	38.6 & Greater	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>						<i>Inches</i>
IA	245	2.4	76.8	19.2	1.6	-	-	30.0
MN	127	3.1	85.9	10.2	0.8	-	-	28.5
<b>WI</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>30.0</b>

## Corn for Grain: Number of Ears per Acre, as of November 1, Selected States, 2011-2015

State	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	<i>Number of Plants</i>				
IA	30,050	28,150	29,500	30,150	30,850
MN	29,350	29,400	30,850	30,750	30,450
<b>WI</b>	<b>28,650</b>	<b>27,150</b>	<b>28,900</b>	<b>29,550</b>	<b>28,600</b>

## U.S. Soybean Supply and Use

SOYBEANS	2013-2014	2014-2015 (Est.)	2015-2016 <sup>1</sup> Projections November
	<i>Million bushels</i>		
Beginning Stocks	141	92	191
Production	3,358	3,927	3,981
Imports	72	33	30
<b>Supply, total</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>4,052</b>	<b>4,203</b>
Crushings	1,734	1,873	1,890
Exports	1,638	1,843	1,715
Seed	97	97	92
Residual	10	48	41
<b>Use, total</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>3,861</b>	<b>3,738</b>
<b>Ending stocks</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>465</b>
Avg. farm price (\$/bu)	13.00	10.10	8.15 – 9.65

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary

## 2015 Potato Objective Yield Data

The National Agricultural Statistics Service is conducting objective yield surveys in seven fall potato-producing States during 2015. Sample plots were located in potato fields randomly selected using a scientifically designed sampling procedure. Field workers recorded counts and measurements within the field and then harvested six hills per sample. Potatoes were sent to laboratories for sizing and grading according to accepted United States fresh grading standards. Data in these tables are rounded actual field counts from this survey.

## Fall Potato Number of Hills by Type, Wisconsin, 2011-2015

Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	<i>Number</i>				
<b>Reds</b>					
Samples	7	8	13	6	5
Avg no. of hills per acre	16,312	15,843	16,048	14,455	15,089
<b>Whites</b>					
Samples	48	43	43	41	41
Avg no. of hills per acre	14,184	15,000	14,327	14,320	15,290
<b>Yellows</b>					
Samples	(D)	(D)	3	5	(D)
Avg no. of hills per acre	(D)	(D)	17,259	15,272	(D)
<b>Russets</b>					
Samples	50	66	49	65	60
Avg no. of hills per acre	12,597	12,884	12,545	12,233	13,302

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

## Fall Potato Grading Categories by Type, Gross Yield Basis, Wisconsin, 2014 and 2015

Type	No. 1 2 inch minimum <sup>1</sup>		No. 2 or processing usable 1.5 inch minimum <sup>1</sup>		Cull <sup>2</sup>	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	<i>Percent</i>					
Round white	87.2	79.8	12.6	20.2	0.2	-
All long	83.9	84.1	15.7	15.8	0.4	0.1

1. Potatoes which meet the requirements for United States #1 or #2, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. 2. Potatoes not meeting the requirements for United States #1 or #2, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. 3. Includes Russet, Shepody, Prospect, and Defender varieties unless otherwise indicated.

## Milk production

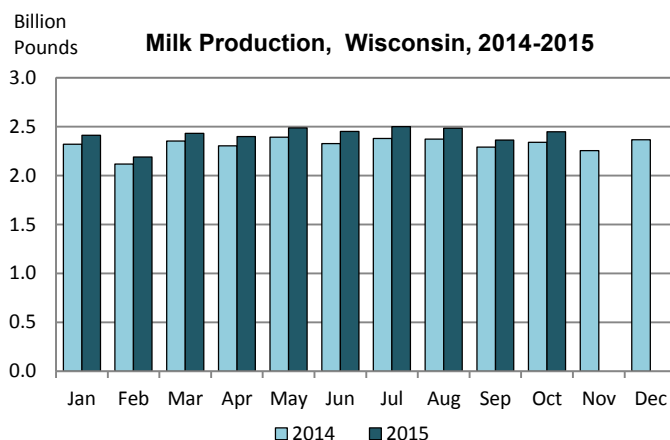
**Milk production** in Wisconsin during October 2015 totaled 2.45 billion pounds, up 4 percent over the previous October. This is the highest October milk production on record for Wisconsin. The average number of milk cows during October, at 1.28 million head, was unchanged from last month, but 8,000 more than a year ago. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,910 pounds, up 70 pounds from a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 16.0 billion pounds, up 0.1 percent from October 2014. September revised production, at 15.6 billion pounds, was up 0.5 percent from September 2014. The September revision represented an increase of 12 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,857 pounds for October, 7 pounds below October 2014. This is the second highest production per cow for the month of October since the 23 State series began in 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.63 million head, 38,000 head more than October 2014, but 1,000 head less than September 2015. Milk production in the United States during October totaled 17.1 billion pounds, up 0.1 percent from October 2014. Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,835 pounds for October, 5 pounds below October 2014. The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.31 million head, 32,000 head more than October 2014, but 1,000 head less than September 2015.

### October Milk Production

State	Milk cows 1/		Rate per cow 2/		Production 2/		Production % chnge 2015/14
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	Thousand head		Pounds		Million pounds		Percent
CA	1,779	1,777	1,930	1,825	3,433	3,243	-5.5
ID	579	586	2,010	2,010	1,164	1,178	+1.2
MI	397	410	2,055	2,080	816	853	+4.5
MN	460	460	1,655	1,685	761	775	+1.8
NM	323	323	2,050	1,990	662	643	-2.9
NY	615	620	1,880	1,910	1,156	1,184	+2.4
PA	530	530	1,680	1,650	890	875	-1.7
TX	470	462	1,825	1,845	858	852	-0.7
<b>WI</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>2,340</b>	<b>2,445</b>	<b>+4.5</b>
23-state total	8,594	8,632	1,864	1,857	16,017	16,028	+0.1

1/Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves.



### Dairy Products, Production by Selected States and U. S.

Item and area	September 2014	August 2015	September 2015	Change from last year	Item and area	September 2014	August 2015	September 2015	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent		1,000 pounds			Percent
CHEESE					CHEESE				
American	365,401	390,758	375,782	+2.8	Provolone	29,966	32,483	32,359	+8.0
Cheddar					Ricotta	21,133	19,584	20,522	-2.9
California	28,336	27,290	28,039	-1.0	Romano	3,470	4,015	3,562	+2.7
Idaho	37,806	41,366	41,305	+9.3	Other Italian types	6,145	6,085	5,678	-7.6
Minnesota	43,653	44,858	43,561	-0.2	Total Italian				
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>44,533</b>	<b>50,087</b>	<b>47,300</b>	<b>+6.2</b>	California	126,322	119,246	120,702	-4.4
United States	257,788	275,276	267,543	+3.8	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>121,877</b>	<b>127,658</b>	<b>122,923</b>	<b>+0.9</b>
Blue & Gorgonzola	7,962	7,973	8,237	+3.5	United States	402,020	410,252	403,490	+0.4
Brick & Muenster	13,309	14,725	13,562	+1.9	Swiss	22,599	26,218	24,466	+8.3
Cream & Neufchatel	76,244	78,992	78,051	+2.4	All other cheese	14,857	14,341	15,999	+7.7
Feta	8,842	9,629	9,666	+9.3	Total cheese				
Gouda	1,620	5,129	5,089	+214.1	California	198,696	190,691	192,616	-3.1
Hispanic	21,049	20,581	21,628	+2.8	Idaho	76,763	79,069	81,029	+5.6
Mozzarella					New Mexico	57,509	63,003	58,475	+1.7
California	116,298	108,268	110,256	-5.2	New York	70,126	71,803	67,955	-3.1
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>83,138</b>	<b>88,429</b>	<b>82,800</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>241,839</b>	<b>252,078</b>	<b>249,551</b>	<b>+3.2</b>
United States	315,867	323,112	317,723	+0.6	United States	933,903	978,598	955,970	+2.4
Parmesan	25,439	24,973	23,646	-7.0					

